LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.   (Previously Presented)   A method comprising:

attempting by a client to access a shared resource;

detecting by the client that the shared resource is unavailable;

determining by the client a first back off interval for the client to delay before reattempting to access the shared resource;

successfully accessing the shared resource by the client, upon expiration of the first back off interval; and

determining by the client, based on the successful access of the shared resource by the client, a second back off interval for the client to delay before reattempting to access the shared resource after said successful access.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second back off interval is less in duration than said first back off interval.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

successively determining additional back off intervals upon each successful access of the shared resource by the client, without regard to availability of the shared resource, each of said successive back off intervals being less in duration than each previous back off interval.

4.   (Cancelled).

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said attempting to access a shared resource comprises attempting to access a server device coupled to the client.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said attempting to access a shared resource further comprises attempting to access a shared network.

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7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said shared network further comprises an Ethernet network.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said shared network further comprises a wireless network.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said attempting to access a shared resource further comprises attempting to access a data bus.

10.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
        a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions for facilitating the apparatus in attempting to access a shared resource, detecting that the shared resource is unavailable, determining by a client a first back off interval for the client to delay before reattempting access to the shared resource, successfully accessing the shared resource upon expiration of the first back off interval, and determining by the client, based on the successful access of the shared resource by the client, a second back off interval for the client to delay before reattempting access to the shared resource after said successful access; and
        one or more processors coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

11.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said second back off interval is less in duration than said first back off interval.

12.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:
        programming instructions to further facilitate the apparatus in successively determining additional back off intervals without regard to availability of the share resource upon each successful access of the shared resource by the client, each of

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said successive back off intervals being less in duration than each previous back off interval.

13.   (Cancelled).

14.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said shared resource comprises a server device coupled to the client.

15.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said shared resource comprises a shared network.

16.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said shared network comprises an Ethernet network.

17.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said shared network comprises a wireless network.

18.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said shared resource comprises a data bus.

19.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:
a counter to determine how many unsuccessful access attempts of the shared resource have been made by the client, wherein the counter value is not reset to zero upon the client successfully accessing the shared resource.

20.   (Previously Presented) A machine accessible medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions for facilitating a client in attempting to access a shared resource, detecting by the client that the shared resource is unavailable, determining by the client a first back off interval for the client to delay before reattempting access to the shared resource, successfully accessing the shared

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resource by the client upon expiration of the first back off interval, and determining by the client, based on the successful access of the shared resource by the client, a second back off interval for the client to delay before reattempting access to the shared resource after said successful access.

21.   (Previously Presented)   A method comprising:
    detecting by a client that a shared resource is unavailable;
    determining by the client a first time period for the client to delay before attempting to access the shared resource;
    upon expiration of the first time period, determining a new first time period for the client to delay before attempting to access the shared resource if the shared resource remains unavailable, and determining by the client, based on a successful access of the shared resource by the client, a second time period for the client to delay before reattempting to access the shared resource after the successful access of the shared resource by the client.

22.   (Previously Presented)   A system comprising:
    a system bus;
    a processor;
    an access module coupled to the system bus, and operated by the processor to access a shared resource; and
    a determination module operated by the processor to determine a first back off interval, based on an unsuccessful attempt to access the shared resource, for the access module to delay before reattempting access to the shared resource, and a second back off interval for the access module to delay before reattempting access to the shared resource after said successful access, the second back off interval being determined based on the successful access of the shared resource by the access module.

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23.   (Previously Presented) The machine accessible medium of claim 20, wherein the programming instructions are adapted to further facilitate the client in successively determining additional back off intervals, upon each successful access of the shared resource by the client, each of said successive back off intervals being less in duration than each previous back off interval.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising successively determining additional back off intervals, upon each successful access of the shared resource by the client, each of said successive back off intervals being less in duration than each previous back off interval.

25.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the determination module is further adapted to successively determine additional back off intervals for the access module, upon each successful access of the shared resource, each of said successive back off intervals being less in duration than each previous back off interval.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second back off interval is based on the number of unsuccessful attempts by the client.

27.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the programming instructions facilitate a determination of a second back off interval based on the number of unsuccessful attempts by the client.

28.   (Previously Presented) The machine accessible medium of claim 20, wherein the programming instructions are adapted to further facilitate the client in determining the second back off interval based on the number of unsuccessful attempts by the client.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the second time period is based on the number of unsuccessful attempts by the client.

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30.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 22, wherein the determination module is further adapted to determine the second back off interval based on the number of unsuccessful attempts by the client.

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